

TWO

332

# HORRID MURTHERS;

ONE,

COMMITTED UPON THE PERSON

OF

*HENRY* the Fourth of *FRANCE*.

THE OTHER

UPON HIS SON IN LAW,

*CHARLES* the First of *ENGLAND*.

Of the various and lasting *Tortures* endured  
by the Murtherers of the *One*, (extracted out of  
Mr. HOWELL his History of *LEWIS* the 13<sup>th</sup>.)

And of the easy short Punishments undergone by  
the Murtherers of the *Other*.

Though for the *Atrocity* of the Fact, They were not inferior to  
the First, but considering all circumstances, and compli-  
cation of Treasons went beyond Him.

---

By JAMES PARRY of *Poston*, Esquire.

---

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Henry Broom* at the Gun in *Ivie-lane*, 1661.

*Not in this list*



340

COMMITTED FROM THE PERSON

HEATRY the Fourth of FRANK.

APPENDIX

REPORT HIS 20 IN L A W

THE END OF THE WORLD

Downloaded from www.worldscientific.com by UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA at 06/10/16. For personal use only.



26... 522

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

illegible text

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Don't forget to send me the money for the book.

DEDICATED  
IN ALL HUMBLENESS  
TO THE  
RIGHT HONORABLE  
THE  
Lord high Chancellor,  
AND  
PRIME OFFICER  
OF THE  
CROWN of *ENGLAND*.



DEDICATED

IN ADE HUMBLIN

TO THE

R. G. T. HONORABLE

THE

Lord High Chancellor

AND

PRIME MINISTER

OF THE

CROWN



# HORRID MURTHERS,

OR

## PARRICIDES

(The worst sort of Murthers)

Committed upon HENRY the Fourth of  
*France*, and CHARLES the First of *England*.



Hese two Execrable Murthers, together with the Murtherers, as they agree, and hold parallell in many things, so they differ in some other.

They agree touching the Atrocity and hainousness of the main *Act*, both the Murthers being perpetrated upon the Sacred Persons of two Great Christian Kings; And that They were Murther'd by their own vassals who were bound unto Them by solemn Oathes of Alleageance, Fidelity and Obedience; They agree, that as the French *Assassin* alledg'd that he was lead thereunto by certain *Illuminations* which he was contented to call afterwards *Tentations*, so the Infernall Murtherers in *England* pretended to have *New-lights* ever and anon; They both agreed in an abominable kind of blasphemy, in that they made God himself the chief Author thereof, and that it was *his work* more then *Mans*.

They differ, In that the Murther in *France* was committed

mitted by one single *Assassin*, for he would never confesse in the highest agonies of Torrure, that any knew of it but Himself, no not his Ghostly Fathers, for fear of discovery; for so he said the *Intent* might be punish'd for the *Deed*.

But the *English* Murtherers, may be call'd an ugly *Hydra* with many heads, who after divers previous consultations committed the *Crime*.

The Murther in *France* was sudden, close and Clandestin, But that in *England* was long a moulding, It was done in the face of the Sun, and pretended to be done according to Justice, and the Laws, in which particular they far exceeded *Ravaillac* in a hellish kind of impudence; It was done before the chief Gate of his own House which was always held a sanctuary.

Moreover, *Henry* the Fourth was quickly put out of pain, but King *Charles* was Crucified as it were long before His death, For those Murtherers like so many Hellhounds may be sayed to have worried Him up and down from place to place, from prison to prison a great while, where they studied how to make him weary of His life before they took it away; For they bereft him of those things which conduce to the common comfort of mankind, (whereof the most infamous *Felou* is not barr'd of,) as Wife, Children, Chaplains, Servants; and place still about Him those whose faces He most abhorrd, which put Him in perpetuall apprehensions of being Murther'd privately; And if He was found to like any of His Keepers, they were presently removed from about Him.

Lastly, The Murtherers differ in point of *punishment*, for though the *English* were higher in mischief, being not onely Traytors to Him their King upon earth, but also



also to the great King of Heaven, and to their own Country, having so sacrilegiously plunder'd the *One*, and plung'd the *Other* in blood and war, yet *They* had but a short kind of punishment, lasting scarce a quarter of an hower, which took away the sense of feeling the rest.

But He of *France* had lingering *Tortures* instead of punishments, which extended to the utmost length of time, possibility of sense, and possibility of nature, as is mention'd in this Incomparable History, which touching this point begins as followeth.

There was a gentle Calme through all Christendom, and *France* had not the least share of it, having continued twenty years together in a constant repose without the least tintumarre, or motion of Armes, A rare thing amongst so spritfull and quicksilver'd people to whom *Peace* becomes a surfet any longer then they have pick'd up their crummes to feed a new war, say there was a Catholique peace throughout *Europe* when *Henry the Fourth of France* would needs get a horse-back upon a great Martiall design which was a mystery for the time, so that all men stood at a maze what he meant, the business was carried so closely, whereupon he raiseth a potent Army of Horse and Foot.

But behold the greatest example of the lubricity and instableness of mundane affairs, and of the sandy foundation whereon the highest pomp and purposes of Men are grounded that any Age can parallell, For this Great King (as I told you before,) having a most powerfull and a kind of irresistible Army of about 40000. combatants, all choice men, conducted by Veteran Commanders, and the most expert that *Europe* could afford, and all of them well appointed and in perfect equipage, The King having also a mount of gold as high as a lance  
(as



(as the *French* writers have it,) estimated at sixteen millions of treasure to maintain this Army; He having assur'd his Confederates abroad, and settled all things at home; He having also caused his *Queen* to be Crown'd in the highest magnificence that could be with intent to appoint Her *Regent* in his absence.

Behold this mighty King amongst these triumphs of his *Queen*, being to go the next day to his Army, when his spirits were at their highest elevation, and his heart swelling with *Assurances* rather than *Hopes* of success and glory, going privately in the afternoon to his Arsenal to view his Artillery, He was stop'd in a small street by so contemptible a thing as a Colliers cart, and there, from among the armes of his own Nobles who were with him in the Coach, he was thrust violently out of the world by one of the meanest of his own vassalls, who with a prodigious hardiness fastning his foot upon the Coach-wheel reach'd him ore the shoulders of one of his greatest Lords, and stab'd him to the very heart, and with a monstrous undantedness of resolution making good his first stab with a second, dispatched him suddenly from off the earth, as if a Mouse had strangled an Elephant.

— *Sic parvis percunt ingentia rebus.*

The *French* stories speak of divers Auguries and predictions of his death; but I will insert here a passage or two that are not to be found in any Printed Author, therefore not vulgar, And our intent is to refrain from stuffing this Piece with any thing that hath been too much blown upon. The first is a Prophecy in an *Italian* Manuscript from a good hand written above a hundred years since, which runs thus, *Un Gran Re di Francia havendo le spalle al papa voltate*  
— *sinchmerà*

*finchmerà poi a Roma, dallo più alto della sua gloria.*

*Le tagliterà la vita,  
Un coltell' feroce  
Che n'andarà la voce  
Per tutto il mundo.*

Thus rendered into English,  
*A Great French King having his face  
Turn'd from the Pope, shall then embrace  
The Roman Faith, but after, He  
At highest pitch of Majestie,  
Shall by a Fatall knife be rent  
To all the Worlds astonishmen'.*

To this may be added the speech of *Francico Corvini* a Toscan Astrologer, who the night before the said *Henry* the fourth was slain, leaning upon a balcone in *Florence* which is near upon 600. miles distant from *Paris*, and as he was prying into the motions of the stars, he suddenly broke out of his speculations into these words, *To morrow one of the greatest Monarks of Christendome is to be slain*. And the very next day the mortal stab was given by *Ravaillac*: Adde hereunto a memorable presaging Dreame that the Queen mother had the night before the murther was committed, for after the triumphs of her Coronation, she dreamt that the diamonds and jewells that were in her Crown were all turn'd to *perl*, which have been always held the emblemes of *Tears*.

That *Ravaillac* was observed to have been a melancholy odde humorist a great while, one who had at times some fits and flashes of Illuminations as his friends gave out afterwards; Now, such is the strength of Imagination and force of Fancy, that having let in false Ideas into the brain, and being fomented by some fatuous Zeal,



it hurls a man headlong oftentimes upon desperate attempts and undertakings, of inevitable danger, making him misprize his own life, so that he may be master of anothers, specially when the enterprise is heated with hope of Merit, Revenge, and Fame.

Thus fell one of the compleatest Kings under which the *Flower de luces* ever flourish'd, a spritful and well-temper'd Prince, excellently vers'd in the study and knowledg of men, always well dispos'd, pleasant and witty, Close in his Counsells, and constant in his purposes, Parsimonious, yet open-handed to *Cadetts* or younger brothers, whom he lov'd to see about Him rather then Elder brothers, who were already advanc'd by *Nature*; And lastly, though this be but a quarter Character of Him, He was a great discerner of worth and vertue, a brave quality, and one of the prime Requisites in a King; For *subjects are industrious or dissolute, They have aspiring thoughts to vertue, and get good Parts according as their Prince hath judgment to distinguish and value their worth, and so to employ and advance them.*

The memory of this King is yet as fresh in *France*, as if he had been taken away but yesterday, and his death was universally *resented*, as much as *admired*, both at home and abroad.

But though the Snn was thus suddenly set in a dark ruddy cloud in the *French* firmament, yet no night ensued, for another did presently rise up, shot his rayes through every corner of that part of the hemisphere, viz. *Lewis* the Thirteenth, &c.

The report of that monstrous Parricide committed on the Person of so glorious a King did penetrat all hearts, and made a strange kind of consternation to seize upon the minds of men. Though it was no new thing



thing in *France* to have their King torn away from them so, for it was fresh in the memory of many thousands, how two and twenty years before *Henry the third* his immediate Predecessor was dispatch'd away in that manner, but the *Assassin* presently found his tomb in the very place where he did perpetrate the Fact, being immediately hack'd to pieces.

The Court of Parliament presently met that afternoon, and declar'd Dame *Maria de Medice* Queen Regent of all *France*, which was the next day confirm'd by the young King her Son sitting Himself on the bed of Royall Justice; This was done without any opposition or scruple at all, for King *Henry* had design'd her for Queen Regent before during his absence in the wars, and the reverence that all had to the judgment of so wise and well belov'd a King advantag'd the work, with a favorable conjuncture of other circumstances; For both the *Princes of the blood* were then absent, The Count of *Soissons* was far up in the Country, where he had retir'd not without some discontentment; The *Prince of Conde* was then in *Italy*. There were also two great Armies in motion, one under the Marshall *Lefdiguieres* in *Dauphine*, The other under the command of the Duke of *Nevers* in *Champanis* ready to suppress any insurrection.

The Queen Mother being thus establish'd in her Regency put three things to present consultation.

1. The security of the Kingdome,
2. A satisfaction to Justice for the Murther of the King.
3. His Obsequies, or rites of Funerall.

Concerning the *first* and *last*, it makes nothing for our present purpose, but touching the *second* which was the expiation of the Kings bloud, and satisfaction to

Justice, and how *Ravaillac* should be punished much pains was taken: At his first examination, they would have perswaded him that the King was not dead but like to recover, whereat he smiled, saying, *that he knew well enough the work was done, for 'twas not he but the hand of Heaven that did it*: Being thereupon ask'd, how he durst embrue his hands in the blood of Gods Anointed, the most Christian King, and his Sovereign Naturall Prince: at the word *most Christian*, he smiled again in a kind of slighting manner; Being searched, there was found about him a pair of beads, and a heart made of Cotten with a piece of wood in it, which he was made to believe was a part of that very Crosse whereon Christ suffer'd: All means imaginable were assayed to make him discover if he had had any Instigators or complices in this Infernall plot, but he still answer'd positively and constantly he had had none at all, saying, that he durst never speake of it to any, no not to his Confessor for fear of discovery; *for so he might have been punished for the Will only, without the Deed*; yet a Jesuit and a Cordelier Fryer who were his Ghostly Fathers, were strictly examin'd, but nothing could be had out of them; Thereupon there arose a nice question among the Divines, *viz. Whether the Priest was bound to reveale the Confessions of his Penitent*? But 'twas only propounded, and so left only *problematical* and undecided for that time.

Now, Every one did scrue up his invention for the devising some exquisit lasting torment for *Ravaillac*; among others the Butchers of *Paris* who are habituated to blood, propos'd a way to slay him alive, and the torture of excoiation should last for three days; Others gave the draught of an Instrument in form of an Obelisk



lisk where he might be presd, and the torment should continue a long time, and life continue; Others propounded a way to have his body quite cut off from the hipps downwards, and his bowells to be presently clap'd on a hot iron plank, which should preserve the other half of the body, and the noble parts in pangs of agonie a long while.

But the Court of Justice though it fit to wave all these ways, and to pronounce this Arrest or Sentence of condemnation against him, viz. *That Francis Ravailack Practitioner (or Pleader) in the Town of Angoulesme, a Criminal process being formed against him, and after due Examination, Information, Interrogations, Confession, Denegation, Confrontation of witnesses, at the instances of the Kings Attorney General, for that most wicked, most abominable, and most detestable Parricide, committed on the person of the late King Henry the fourth of most good and laudable memory. For reparation of which damnable murder the Court hath declared, and doth doth declare, that the said Francis Ravailac shall be carried in a tombrell naked in his shirt, with a flaming torch of two pound weight in his hand, before the principall gate of the great Church in Paris there to make honorable amends, and thence to be carried to the Greve or common place of execution, where holding the knife in his hand wherewith he perpetrated that most accursed Parricide, his hand shall be first pierc'd with the said knife, and then burnt up with fire of sulfer upon the open stage; That he shall have the Brodequins or buskins fill'd with scalding oyle applied unto his leggs; That he shall be pincerd in the paps, thighs, and braun or calf of the leggs, that holes shall be made up and down his body, wherein boyling lead, burning rozin, and wax metled with sulpher shall be powr'd; That his body afterwards shall be drawn*



drawn & dismembred by four horses; That his members shall be then burnt and reduc'd to cinders, and the ashes thrown into the air to make an utter extinction of him in this world: That the House wherein he was born in Angoulesme shall be razd and made even with the ground, provided that he who possesseth it shall be indemnified, and that none shall ever presume to build upon that piece of earth again. That all his goods stable or moveable shall be confiscated to the King; That within fifteen days after the publication of this sentence, his Father and Mother shall quit the Kingdome of France never to return; That his Brothers, Sisters, Uncles, and others of his Kindred shall never for the future bear the name of Ravailac under pain of being hang'd and strangled, but change it to some other Sirname.

This dismall sentence was executed to the very height of torture, and extended to the utmost length of time, possibility of sense, and possibility of naturall strength, for there were ways invented, and such Cordi-alls given that kept him from syncopps, and fitts of swooning; Before, at the beginning, and in the midst of all his torments, there could be no other confession extorted from him, though he was sifted with all the sagacity and artifice that could be, but that the sole motives which hurld him on so desperate an attempt were certain *Revelations* that he said he had had, which afterwards he was contented to call *Temptations*; And that he thought he should do a work acceptable to God Almighty to take away a King who was a Favourer of Heretiques, and who went about with the Army he had rais'd to perturb the peace of the Catholique Church, and of the Holy Father the Pope.

The people in generall did love the deceased King so passionately, that nothing but Imprecations, Curses, and  
all

all sorts of Maledictions could be heard ecchoing from them, so that none did pittie him, or were heard to pray with him or for him all the while he was upon the scaffold, and in the midst of his torments, nay scarce any were found that wish'd the salvation of his soul. And touching his Body after it was torn by horses, happy was he that could get any piece of it to cast into a fire, insomuch that it might be said he was burnt in more then twenty places up and down the City and Suburbs in severall great fires ; So *Nemesis* had her glut, for that infernall *Assassin* may be said not only to be executed but extinguish'd, or rather *annihilated* and reduc'd to a non-entity, only he hath a *Being* in story for an everlasting villain, as he who burnt the Temple of *Diana*.

*Thus far goes our Noble Historian, whereby it appears, that the English Clime is far more mild in point of Justice then France, for though the Murther here was altogether of as transcendent a nature, and more horrid then the French, considering all circumstances, and complication of Treasons, it being a thing unexampled since the world began, that a King should be so arraign'd before his own Subjects as a Criminal ; nor did their Malice terminate with his life, but after his death they hir'd scurrilous Pamphleters to bespatter him, and withall caus'd his statutes to be batter'd, his pictures burnt, and his Armes taken down in Churches ; I say, though the English Murtherers were far more abominable, yet their punishment was much more easie and short.*

*In conclusion, observable it is, that among those varieties of punishments which were inflicted upon Ravallac, there were two that followed him after death ; For an Edict or Act of Parliament pass'd, that the House he was born in should be raz'd to the ground, and not a stone left on a stone, with a kind of Anathema that none should ever build or dwell  
there*

(12)

there again, Another Act pass'd that all his Kindred should take another Sirname, and call themselves no more Ravillac, under pain of being hang'd and strangled.

Which two particulars are humbly recommended to the Great Council of England, viz. the two Houses of Parliament, upon their Re-accesse.

JAMES PARRY.

---

FINIS.





